ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

October 16, 1972

MEMORANDUM

Al V. Sorenson, former Mayor of Omaha, Nebraska, told me that he was in charge of the committee for the City of Omaha to dispose of the Byron Reed coin collection now in the library. He told me that Dr. Judd and Ed Rochette had recommended me. He stated that only a portion of the coins had been inventoried many years ago. He stated that no agreement had been obtained from the family; that some of the family were trying to get a percentage of the value for their consent, even though they were all wealthy people.

He said that the proceeds are to be used to build a new library and that it might be named after Mr. Reed or at least a room named for Mr. Reed.

The address of Mr. Sorenson is: 1750 Woodman Tower, Omaha, Nebraska 16102. His telephone number is: [redacted]50. He has a private residential telephone number: [redacted]

He indicated he would come to see me. I told him I had a lot of questions to ask before I would consider being of help.

EPN/atb

ERIC P. NEWMAN

A NON-PROFIT CORPORATION FOR EDUCATION
THROUGH RESEARCH AND EXHIBITION
OF COINS, CURRENCY AND HISTORIC OBJECTS

A. V. SORENSEN

October 30, 1972

Mr. Eric P. Newman
P. O. Box 14020
St. Louis, Missouri 63178

Dear Eric:

Attached you will find a formal letter of invitation relating to the Byron Reed coin collection.

This letter is to tell you of my appreciation for the courtesies extended to me while visiting with you in your home over the weekend. Very especially do I appreciate the excellent lunch and the opportunity to become acquainted with your lovely Evelyn.

I came home with the feeling that I had developed some new friends and I certainly will be pleased if it could develop that you would be my good right hand in my effort to serve the City of Omaha relative to this coin collection. Please feel free to telephone me collect as you crystallize your plans for coming to Omaha.

Again, my most sincere appreciation to you and to Evelyn for a perfectly delightful visit to your home.

Cordially,

A. V. SORENSEN

AVS/md
Attach.

SUITE 1750, WOODMEN TOWER
OMAHA, NEBRASKA 68102

A. V. SORENSEN

October 30, 1972

Mr. Eric P. Newman
P. O. Box 14020
St. Louis, Missouri 63178

Dear Eric:

This will confirm my verbal invitation to you to come to Omaha and develop a complete inventory and up-to-date appraisal of the City of Omaha owned Byron Reed coin collection.

I extend this invitation to you as the official representative of our Mayor and the members of our City Council on all matters related to some ultimate disposition of this collection.

You indicated that you would come to Omaha at an early date to look over this total collection and in general get the "feel" of the extent of the inventory and appraisal effort. You are invited to bring with you any persons whom you might wish to use at a later date to work under your supervision.

While we have no deadlines in this effort, we would like very much to formulate a definite program for completing this first necessary step in the ultimate disposition of the collection.

When you are ready I am prepared to discuss with you the financial aspects of your services to the City and of any and all experts who may be invited by you to assist in the overall effort.

Yours very truly,

A. V. SORENSEN

AVS/md
cc Mayor Leahy
Fred Jacobberger, Pres. City Council

SUITE 1750, WOODMEN TOWER
OMAHA, NEBRASKA 68102

A. V. SORENSEN

October 31, 1972

Mr. Eric P. Newman
P. O. Box 14020
St. Louis, Missouri 63178

Dear Eric:

Today I visited with Mr. Ed Lyman, President of the U.S. National Bank in whose vaults the Byron Reed collection is stored.

Mr. Lyman advises that they will cooperate with us in every possible way, including accessibility to the collection during hours when the bank is closed, and in addition providing personnel for security. If required, the City will add additional security personnel.

All this means that once we establish a working schedule, arrangements can be made at the bank vaults to suit your convenience.

Cordially,

Al Sorensen

A. V. SORENSEN

AVS/md

SUITE 1750, WOODMEN TOWER
OMAHA, NEBRASKA 68102

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

November 2, 1972

Mr. A. V. Sorensen
Suite 1750, Woodmen Tower
Omaha, Nebraska 68102

Dear Al:

Your very kind letter of October 30, 1972 requesting my services in connection with the Byron Reed coin collection is appreciated. Any work which I do for the City of Omaha would be undertaken on behalf of this organization. It is an honor to be asked.

I fully realize the complexity of many of the problems which you face. We hope to be able to work out the details so that we can be of service in the areas in which you need us.

There is enclosed herewith a recent New York Times article on the Metropolitan Museum's disposition of its coin collection. Perhaps you did not see it.

At the earliest mutually convenient time I will try to make an appointment to look over some of the collection in Omaha and discuss with you the various alternatives available to you.

My kindest personal regards,

Sincerely yours,

EPN
atb

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC
EDUCATION SOCIETY

A NON-PROFIT CORPORATION FOR EDUCATION
THROUGH RESEARCH AND EXHIBITION
OF COINS, CURRENCY AND HISTORIC OBJECTS

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

November 7, 1972

Mr. A. V. Sorensen
Suite 1760, Woddmen Tower
Omaha, Nebraska 68102

Dear Al:

In checking the articles about the Reed collection, I feel that some additional data might be located. In the 1929 talk of Edith Tobitt, librarian, she stated that "All of the collection is catalogued, the coins and medals during the lifetime of Mr. Reed and the remainder at a later time". Would you be nice enough to see if there are such early inventories of the Reed collection. I would appreciate a copy if you find them. What brought about a new inventory in 1964 and who was in charge of it?

It is also noticeable that some pieces may be missing or uncatalogued. The $4 pattern in three different metals is mentioned in 1929 and only two are in the new inventory left with me. Similarly, the "Mormon Set" of coins has no $10 or $20.0f the six ring dollars mentioned I only find three on the list.

Incidentally, I noticed that a person by the name of M. Sorensen of Cedar Rapids, Iowa in 1924 read an article on Money of Account the same year the Reed collection was opened to the public through Nelson Thorson's efforts. Was Sorensen a relative of yours?

Perhaps the library can help with the above questions.

Sincerely,

Eric

EPN
atb

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC
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THROUGH RESEARCH AND EXHIBITION
OF COINS, CURRENCY AND HISTORIC OBJECTS

Byron Reed Collection

Numis	Apr 1924	306, 707	Vol 37
	Oct 1929	p 682	Vol 42
	Feb 1930	p 90	Vol 43

C.W. 5/3/72
C.W. 5/24/72 p 4 2 letters to Editor

AJN Vol 26 No 1 July 1891 p 23

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

December 26, 1972

Mr. Al V. Sorenson
1750 Woodman Tower
Omaha, Nebraska 10102

Dear Al:

I had hoped to get to Omaha before you left for your Florida vacation. I am going to Jamaica for the first week in January and expected to come to Omaha the second week in January. A meeting has been called in Washington for the Coins and Medals Panel for the American Revolution Bicentennial and, being chairman, I must attend. I have to meet with Mint officials and the Bureau of Engraving and Printing officials.

I will certainly get to Omaha promptly thereafter and presume you can set things up with Mr. Gibson or someone else so that I can get the work started. Will you let me know how I should proceed under these circumstances.

My best wishes to you for the holidays.

Sincerely yours,

EPN/atb

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC
EDUCATION SOCIETY

A NON-PROFIT CORPORATION FOR EDUCATION
THROUGH RESEARCH AND EXHIBITION
OF COINS, CURRENCY AND HISTORIC OBJECTS

A. V. SORENSEN

December 26, 1972

Mr. Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis, Missouri

Dear Eric:

In about three hours the Omaha City Council should approve my recommendations relative to the Byron-Reed coin collection. We will then be ready for the next step of inventory and appraisal. I'll send you a clipping on today's meeting when it comes to me in the evening newspaper.

In the meantime I am sending you copies of clippings which are all self-explanatory and will suggest to you how I have proceeded.

We are now definitely planning to go to Florida on January 14 and while it is not necessary for me to be here when you call on Frank Gibson to make your initial arrangements, it is important that I have a financial agreement with your Foundation before the process begins.

Perhaps you should telephone me on either of these numbers.. office [redacted] Everything is going according to plan and I see no problem whatsoever in proceeding as you and I have discussed.

Cordially,

A. V. SORENSEN

AVS/md
Attachs.

P.S. The above was written before receiving your letter of December 26. You can proceed to make arrangements with Mr. Frank Gibson, head of the Omaha City Libraries for planning your work relating to inventory and appraisal.

SUITE 1750, WOODMEN TOWER
OMAHA, NEBRASKA 68102

A. V. SORENSEN

October 23, 1972

Mr. Eric Newman
P. O. Box 14020
St. Louis, Missouri 63178

Dear Mr. Newman:

Many thanks for giving me an opportunity to visit with you about the Byron Reed coin collection and our community problem.

As agreed, I will telephone you upon arrival in St. Louis at around 4:00 PM Friday, October 27. I have a reservation at the Colony Inn.

Cordially,

A. V. SORENSEN

AVS/md

SUITE 1750, WOODMEN TOWER
OMAHA, NEBRASKA 68102

A. V. SORENSEN

November 27, 1972

Mr. Eric P. Newman
Numismatic Education Society
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Dear Eric:

You haven't heard much from me because I've been busy on many things including the Byron Reed coin collection.

At the present time a legal document is being presented to the five heirs for signature. This document will acknowledge that the heirs have no interest in the Byron Reed coin collection. Verbally I have their approval. I am now in the process of getting it in writing. One of the heirs is in Italy and one is in Mexico so it may take a little time.

Frank Gibson wrote you on November 16 and supplied you with some more information that I hope is helpful. There is no reason to wait for a final decision from the heirs before we proceed with the inventory and appraisal. Therefore I'm hoping that you are prepared to take the first steps soon in this direction.

Incidentally the members of the Omaha Coin Club are available for assistance should you wish to use them. Further, I have authority from the Mayor and City Council to provide funds for employing this type of assistance to operate under your direction.

I anticipate going to Florida on January 15 and will be gone for two months. I would hope that you could "take charge" of the inventory and appraisal on a mutually agreeable basis prior to my leaving on January 15. I'm available to visit with you at any time.

Cordially,

A. V. SORENSEN

P.S. Please tell your good wife that I'm interested to know her reaction to the recent election!

AVS/md

SUITE 1750, WOODMEN TOWER
OMAHA, NEBRASKA 68102

MEMORANDUM

November 24, 1972

I met with the Omaha Coin Club Friday evening, November 24, 1972.

Sometime earlier I had indicated to them that I wanted to share with them the work I was doing in relation to the Byron Reed coin collection. My thought was and is that to the degree these people will support our efforts, to that degree we can more effectively accomplish our goals.

It was quite obvious that some of the members were unhappy with the City of Omaha for not providing an appropriate display area with necessary security so that this collection might be available to all of the people in the city. On the other hand there were others in the audience who were most realistic recognizing the cost of a facility for housing the collection, annual cost for security, etc. etc.

I indicated to the membership that I wanted their cooperation but it would have to be something more than merely stating they wanted the collection to remain in Omaha. I also suggested that when they made suggestions relating to the collection they should also be prepared to assist me in implementing those suggestions. I closed my remarks to the group by indicating the following:

1. It was my judgment that it might take as much as 12 months to get a total inventory, a complete appraisal and a catalogue of the collection.

2. It was my judgment that the City of Omaha should make every effort to keep the collection intact even though it might be moved out of the City of Omaha.

3. It was my belief that to have an auction and sell this collection item by item, would not only be tremendously expensive (two dealers quoted 20% of sale price) but would be a lengthy process.

Finally, I told them that the ultimate decisions lay with the Mayor and the City Council, but it was my personal judgment at this time that we should work towards completion of the inventory, the appraisal and the sale, with the funds being used for a down-payment on a new downtown library.

While some members appreciated the forthright statement I had made and perhaps were a bit unhappy about my views, I would say that most of the members recognized the practical problems and could well understand why this collection might ultimately be sold and moved out of the City.

It was an interesting experience and I have developed a contact with them which I believe will be helpful in the future.

A. V. SORENSEN

Omaha Coin Club
ORGANIZED MAY 5, 1934
P. O. BOX 1003 - DOWNTOWN STATION
Omaha, Nebraska 68101

Life Member American Numismatic Association

October 28, 1972

Mr. A. V. Sorensen
Suite 1750, Woodmen Tower
Omaha, Nebraska 68102

Dear Mr. Sorensen:

At the October meeting of the Omaha Coin Club, our President, Mr. Dick Fielding, read your letter of October 11 and related the phone conversation in connection with the Byron Reed Coin Collection.

Members of the club expressed a desire to discuss this matter with you personally; therefore, on behalf of the Coin Club, I would like to extend an invitation to you to attend one of our future meetings. We meet on the fourth Friday of every month, 8PM, at the Commercial Federal Savings and Loan Association building at 3520 North 90th Street.

We certainly hope you will be able to work this into your schedule and would appreciate your contacting me at 551-0498 as soon as possible.

Sincerely,
OMAHA COIN CLUB

Steve Swanson
Secretary

Richard Fielding, President
5918 North Oaks Blvd.
Omaha, Nebraska
Phone 571-3335

A. V. SORENSEN

November 27, 1972

Mr. Eric P. Newman
Numismatic Education Society
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Dear Eric:

You haven't heard much from me because I've been busy on many things including the Byron Reed coin collection.

At the present time a legal document is being presented to the five heirs for signature. This document will acknowledge that the heirs have no interest in the Byron Reed coin collection. Verbally I have their approval. I am now in the process of getting it in writing. One of the heirs is in Italy and one is in Mexico so it may take a little time.

Frank Gibson wrote you on November 16 and supplied you with some more information that I hope is helpful. There is no reason to wait for a final decision from the heirs before we proceed with the inventory and appraisal. Therefore I'm hoping that you are prepared to take the first steps soon in this direction.

Incidentally the members of the Omaha Coin Club are available for assistance should you wish to use them. Further, I have authority from the Mayor and City Council to provide funds for employing this type of assistance to operate under your direction.

I anticipate going to Florida on January 15 and will be gone for two months. I would hope that you could "take charge" of the inventory and appraisal on a mutually agreeable basis prior to my leaving on January 15. I'm available to visit with you at any time.

Cordially,

A. V. SORENSEN

P.S. Please tell your good wife that I'm interested to know her reaction to the recent election!

AVS/md

SUITE 1750, WOODMEN TOWER
OMAHA, NEBRASKA 68102

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

December 26, 1972

Mr. Al V. Sorenson
1750 Woodman Tower
Omaha, Nebraska 10102

Dear Al:

I had hoped to get to Omaha before you left for your Florida vacation. I am going to Jamaica for the first week in January and expected to come to Omaha the second week in January. A meeting has been called in Washington for the Coins and Medals Panel for the American Revolution Bicentennial and, being chairman, I must attend. I have to meet with Mint officials and the Bureau of Engraving and Printing officials.

I will certainly get to Omaha promptly thereafter and presume you can set things up with Mr. Gibson or someone else so that I can get the work started. Will you let me know how I should proceed under these circumstances.

My best wishes to you for the holidays.

Sincerely yours,

EPN/atb

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC
EDUCATION SOCIETY

A NON-PROFIT CORPORATION FOR EDUCATION
THROUGH RESEARCH AND EXHIBITION
OF COINS, CURRENCY AND HISTORIC OBJECTS

December 6, 1972

Mr. Frank E. Gibson, Director
Omaha Public Library
1823 Harney Street
Omaha, Nebraska 68102

Dear Mr. Gibson:

Thank you very much for your letter of November 16, 1972 and the photocopy of the 1891 inventory.

I believe you helped me when I visited the library many years ago and wanted to look at one of the coins.

The old list will be very helpful and I am very pleased that it was available.

In view of the fact that Mr. Sorenson is going on vacation in January, I will try to arrange an early visit to Omaha so as to formulate a workable plan which can proceed while he is on vacation.

Kindest regards,

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC
EDUCATION SOCIETY

EPN/atb

CC:
Mr. A. V. Sorensen

omaha public library
1823 HARNEY STREET • OMAHA, NEBRASKA 68102 • 402-342-4766
Frank E. Gibson, Director

November 16, 1972

Mr. Eric P. Newman
Numismatic Education Society
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis, Missouri 63105.

Dear Mr. Newman:

Mr. A. V. Sorenson has requested me to answer your letter of November 7, 1972 in reference to early inventories of the Reed Collection.

Please find enclosed a photostatic copy of an inventory which is not dated. I assume, however, that it was prepared at the time of the acceptance of the gift in 1891 or shortly thereafter.

It was believed in 1964 that this inventory could not be used satisfactorily as a means of determining insurable values because of the following reasons:

1. The coins were not adequately described.

2. The coins had not been graded.

3. The coins which apparently had been shifted many times since the receipt of the collection were no longer keyed in any way to the inventory or to the locations noted in the inventory.

The latter reason, of course, made it very difficult to relate the coins to the inventory particularly in the case of the foreign and ancient coins.

Accordingly, the inventory in 1964, to the extent it was completed, was performed by the volunteer efforts of the officers

of the Omaha Coin Club. Work on the inventory was stopped in 1965 when the coins were transferred to bank vaults because of two major attempts to steal the collection.

You will note that the several apparent discrepancies which you mentioned in your letter are resolved as the two inventories are compared.

I will be pleased to answer any other questions in reference to the Collection which you might have if I am able to do so.

Sincerely,

Frank E. Gibson

Frank E. Gibson
Director
Omaha Public Library.

FEG/dm
Encls.
cc-A. V. Sorensen

A. V. SORENSEN

January 3, 1973

Mr. Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis, Missouri

Dear Eric:

By way of keeping you up to date, and also to indicate that our procedures are going exactly according to plan, I'm enclosing two additional clippings for your information.

The resolution which will be placed before the City Council by Councilman Bradley on January 23 will without question be passed. This makes our next step all legal and proper.

However it's my judgment that until this resolution is passed and the Mayor and City Council direct me to proceed, you should not make your initial appearance in Omaha.

Even though I'm in Florida I'll keep you informed and very possibly telephone you when the need arises.

I rather suspect before I leave for Florida it will all have jelled so I can bring you up to date at that time.

I trust you had a good holiday and a satisfactory visit on your eastern trip.

My very best regards to yourself and your good wife.

Cordially,

A. V. SORENSEN

AVS/md
Attachs.

SUITE 1750, WOODMEN TOWER
OMAHA, NEBRASKA 68102

A. V. SORENSEN

January 20, 1973

Mr. Eric P. Newman
P. O. Box 14020
St. Louis, Missouri 63178

Dear Eric:

As I indicated to you earlier, the City Council has approved my negotiated settlement with the Byron-Reed heirs. The enclosed clipping confirms this. The law requires a delay of 15 days before the ordinance takes effect.

Therefore in two weeks, the City Attorney will deliver to Mr. Ed Morsman, Attorney for the heirs, a city check for $25,000.00. The agreement calls for a second payment of equal amount to be paid in one year, or when the collection is sold, whichever comes first.

So . . the major stumbling block which faced the city is resolved. Now the city can feel free to make its future decisions relative to the collection without any concern regarding legal action by the heirs.

Enclosed is a copy of a letter I received from the Mayor prior to my leaving for Florida. It invites me to continue to "quarterback" the developing of an inventory and having the necessary appraisal made of the collection.

However, I am of the opinion that it would be wise to let the Mayor, the City Council and the Library Board -- all elected and appointed officials, carry the ball from now on.

From the clippings I sent you, plus the "organizing for action" on the part of some local coin dealers, it is obvious that there is a long road ahead before the city can reach the position where its officials can make a final determination regarding ultimate disposition of the collection.

A new Mayor and a new City Council take office May 26 and they, too, may have some ideas about the collection. Disposition of the collection will definitely be an "issue" among candidates for the City Council in the municipal elections this spring.

SUITE 1750, WOODMEN TOWER
OMAHA, NEBRASKA 68102

Would-be politicians have to have an issue and historically "bleed" for the public!

Of course any future city government would have to honor any agreement the present government enters into for making the inventory and developing the appraisal.

Therefore, you and I should reach an agreement for compensation for the Newman Foundation for your services. Along with this, it would be necessary to spell out the work to be accomplished and to some degree general terms regarding procedure, time schedule, etc.

In brief, City government has to have a specific document before it, before it can take action.

As in the case of the heirs, City government accepted my proposals without question. The "flack" came from outsiders who, by and large, didn't know what we were doing or what they were talking about.

I have not advised the Mayor or City Council of my decision to step aside and let them carry on. I wanted first to have your reactions. You and I can easily agree on compensation and procedure which I will submit to the City for approval. Should there be any "flack" at that point (local dealers wanting into the act, etc.) then we could both step aside and let the City officials struggle with the problem. Do you agree?

Therefore, we are at this point:-

1. The problem of the heirs has been resolved to everyone's satisfaction.

2. With myself out of the picture in the future, your contact in City Government would be Frank Gibson, City Librarian and a fine and capable individual. To a lesser degree you would be dealing with Mr. Abrahams, President of the Library Board, who wants desperately to get that new library built.

3. Sorensen and Newman can still negotiate a working agreement for the Newman Foundation. We can do this on the telephone. The agreement will require City Council approval. If there develops conflicting opinions among the City Council I would suggest we both withdraw from the effort.

4. Once the Sorensen-Newman agreement has City approval, I would expect to step aside and you would be working primarily with the Library Board people. I want you to understand this.

Now a bit of added background.

It is my judgment that after an inventory and appraisal has been made and after a catalogue has been developed, there will be a first class "hassel" in the City of Omaha relative to ultimate disposition of the collection.

This situation will, in my judgment, probably bring about a public referendum before it is over. This may be all to the good.

Those who so violently oppose the sale of the Byron Reed collection refuse to face up to the practical problems the City faces in housing and in providing security for the collection. Neither do they seem to be aware of the basic fact that even the Byron Reed collection properly displayed would have limited interest for the great mass of our citizens or touristry. For the relative few who would see the collection, the expense would be difficult to justify.

I'm aware that this view is contrary to our local "coin collectors" and interested citizens. Nevertheless I believe it is a practical view and one which the City Government must ultimately recognize.

There is no relationship between developing an inventory and securing an appraisal; and the ultimate decision relative to the disposition of the collection.

Therefore, you are most cordially invited to "carry on" as we both planned you would.

Just tell me what is a fair and reasonable financial reward and in broad terms what would be your "work plan".

I will then seek City Government approval for this arrangement.

My phone in Florida is [redacted] We are one hour ahead of St. Louis time.

When you are ready to talk to me about all this, just call. Early evening, around 5:00 PM St. Louis time is best. If you prefer you can write to me at this address:

A. V. Sorensen
The Chateau #210
2151 Gulf Shore Blvd. N.
Naples, Florida 33940

I've tried to give you the entire picture. If I've missed something, let me know.

Most cordially,

A. V. SORENSEN

AVS/md
Attachs.

File

CITY OF OMAHA
EXECUTIVE OFFICE
EUGENE A. LEAHY, MAYOR

January 8, 1973

A. V. Sorensen
1750 Woodmen Tower
Omaha, Nebraska 68102

Dear Mayor Al:

Just a short note to express my deep appreciation for your very effective services in connection with the Byron Reed coin collection. I know how much time and effort you have devoted to this project, and I am truly grateful.

I understand that you have made arrangements for Mr. Eric T. Newman to come to Omaha for a preliminary meeting to consider the best way of proceeding with an inventory and appraisal. Please let me know what conclusions are reached and what steps you recommend.

Again, my thanks for what you are doing. I look forward to your continuing work on this project.

Sincerely,

Gene

EUGENE A. LEAHY
Mayor

101/13

Omaha World-Herald
Metropolitan News
OMAHA, NEB., WEDNESDAY, JAN. 24, 1973 4 *

Council Votes to Hold Coins, But Still Seeks Library Funds

Omaha should not sell its Byron Reed coin collection, the City Council said Tuesday.

But it should build a new downtown library, using federal revenue-sharing funds or some other money, councilmen said.

Councilmen noted, however, that they could not bind future controls to follow their wishes.

The vote for the resolution to retain the collection and construct a library was approved, 6-0. Councilman Betty Abbott abstained.

She said she would not vote until she knew exactly what the collection contains and what its value is. Mrs. Abbott said she also did not think that the coin collection and library questions should be tied together as they were in the one resolution adopted by the council.

Council President H. F. Jacobberger said he will introduce next Tuesday a resolution that would designate a local numismatic group, the Byron Reed Historical Society, to take an inventory of the collection and to catalog the coins.

Jerry Grossman, a spokesman for the group, said the organization offered its services and would make an informal appraisal of the coins for insurance purposes.

However, Grossman and Leonard Owens, another member of the group, repeated earlier requests not to sell the collection.

The Library Board had suggested that the collection, willed to the city in 1891, be sold to raise money for a new downtown library.

Councilman Warren R. Swigart proposed the no-sale resolution, and at the insistence of Councilman Arthur D. Bradley Jr., the statement on the new library was added.

Earlier, Bradley has proposed a resolution that would have charged the mayor with making arrangements for an inventory and appraisal. But councilmen turned down that proposal on a 3-4 vote. Siding with Bradley were Mrs. Abbott and Councilmen L. K. Smith.

Relations Board Adds 2 Members

Two new appointees to the Human Relations Board are expected to take office Friday.

The City Council approved Tuesday the appointments of John Buehlmann, program director of a center caring for Indian alcoholics, and Burton E. "Gene" Lewis, a Northern Natural Gas Co. employe.

Buehlmann, an American Indian, and Lewis, a black, are expected to attend their first board meeting at 2 p.m. Friday at City Hall. Both were nominated last week by Mayor Leahy.

Buehlmann, 36, lives at 3308 Lincoln Boulevard. Lewis, 33, a human resources consultant with Northern, lives at 3210 North Ninety-seventh Street.

Their appointments bring the board to its authorized size of nine members. It is composed of four Negroes, three whites, one Indian and one Chicano.

$172,260 Allowed Roxbury SID Park

A sanitary and improvement district in the Roxbury subdivision can spend $172,260 to develop a park northwest of 108th and Q Streets, the City Council said Tuesday.

Much of the cost, $133,516, will be for construction of a swimming pool, city planner S. P. Benson told the council.

Sanitary and Improvement District #24 had proposed spending $90,000 more on the development, but its directors were told by the Planning Board and Parks and Recreation Advisory Board to pare the costs, he said.

Council approval is required for recreational developments outside the city but within the city's three-mile planning and zoning jurisdiction, according to a recent state law.

1-25-73

Board to Proceed On Library Plans

By Mary McGrath

The Omaha Library Board Wednesday started changing the City Council's words into actions leading to construction of a downtown library.

Moreover, as planned now, the library will not include a display of the Byron Reed coin collection. The collection has been the center of debate since the board proposed it be sold to help finance a new main library.

The City Council Tuesday decided that the collection, valued at more than $1 million, should not be sold. A library should be built with revenue-sharing or other funds, the council resolution said.

"We should take the council at face value and advise our architects to proceed with the first of the five planning stages," Library Board President Milton Abrahams said.

The architect fee for this phase is about $68,000, and the Council should be asked for that amount, he said.

His recommendations were adopted unanimously by those present. Two of the nine board members were absent.

Asked whether a coin display is being designated into the proposed $6 million structure, Abrahams said it is not.

"Our obligation is to provide library service. The responsibility for the future of the coins apparently now rests with a new organization (the Byron Reed Historical Society)," he said.

City Council President H. F. Jacobberger has said he will introduce a resolution next Tuesday designating the society to inventory and catalog the coins. The society was formed by a group of coin enthusiasts.

Abrahams also said no final decision on the new library's location has been made. Previous discussion has centered on the present site.

Preliminary planning still can be done by the firms of Hellmuth, Obata & Kassabaum of St. Louis, Mo., and John Latenser & Sons, he said.

Clarence Teal, building committee chairman, told the board that widening and redesigning the corner of Ninetieth Street and West Dodge Road will necessitate a new parking lot entrance for Swanson Library. The state will pay the estimated $15,000 cost of the project.

The board voted a 5 per cent pay raise for Library Director Frank Gibson, from $1,727 a month to $1,813.

January 25, 1973

Mr. Eric P. Newman
P. O. Box 14020
St. Louis, Missouri 63178

Dear Mr. Newman:

As you know, our mutual good friend Mr. Sorensen is down in Florida and enclosed herein, you will find a copy of a letter which he dictated on January 20.

Since that time, however, as evidenced by the enclosed news items from the Omaha World Herald, you will note that the City Council will adopt a resolution to designate a local numismatic group "to take an inventory of the collection and catalogue the coins".

It is my considered opinion at this time Mr. Newman, that all of your proposed arrangements with Mr. Sorensen be held in abeyance until this matter is finally resolved by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Omaha.

Regardless of the outcome, I'm sure Mr. Sorensen is indeed deeply indebted to you for your wise counsel and advice concerning the Reed coin collection and all of the complications involved therein.

Most cordially yours,

EDWARD SHAFTON
Attorney for Mr. Sorensen

ES/md
Attachs.

ATTORNEY AT LAW
SEVENTEEN HUNDRED FIFTY WOODMEN TOWER
OMAHA, NEBRASKA 68102
TELEPHONE 402/341-1950

EDWARD SHAFTON

Mr. Newman:

Enclosed for your information as suggested by Mr. A. V. Sorensen.

There is a real political hassle going on about the Collection especially NOW, just before the City election for Mayor and Councilmen.

Edward Shafton
1-30-73

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

February 5, 1973

Mr. Kenneth Bressett
Western Ppblishing Co.
1220 Mound Avenue
Racine, Wisc. 53404

Dear Ken:

Now you realize why Early Paper Money of America needs revision. You have found an unclear comment. I have made the change to show the eight lowest denominations have a blank back. I didn't say what kind of a back the 18d and 2s had, but should have so designated. Your piece is genuine, but the xerox you sent stretched my imagination. Thank you.

I am personally relieved about the Reed collection. It was like lifting a burden off my back as I should not have been willing to undertake to advise them on selling, etc.

Please let me hear from you on your suggestions as to the revision. I have several hundred changes like yours, some even more idiotic errors.

Kindest regards to Neil, too.

Sincerely,

Eric

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN:m

A NON-PROFIT CORPORATION FOR EDUCATION
THROUGH RESEARCH AND EXHIBITION
OF COINS, CURRENCY AND HISTORIC OBJECTS

March 26, 1973

Mr. Eric P. Newman
P. O. Box 14020
St. Louis, Missouri 63178

Dear Eric:

At long last I've returned home! As I'm sure you are aware, I kept in touch with all the political activities related to the Byron Reed coin collection during my Florida visit.

I can report to you that the Byron Reed heirs have signed the necessary documents and were paid in accordance with our agreement. Accordingly, they no longer are a factor in anything we might want to do in the future regarding this collection.

At present we are deeply involved in a political campaign where I'm serving as the fund-raiser for the candidate who ought to be the ultimate winner . . only time will tell.

However, until all this is resolved, nothing will be done about the Byron Reed collection. If you have any questions, or if I can supply you with more information, just pick up the phone and call me collect.

I hope you had a good winter in St. Louis. We certainly had very poor weather in Florida, and only today are we beginning to have decent weather here at home.

Cordially,

A. V. SORENSEN

AVS/md

P.S. A friend sent me a clipping from the St. Louis paper' outlining one of your wife's new fundraising projects, all of which was interesting and stimulating. Please pass along to her my very best regards.

April 10, 1973

Dear Al,

Would you send me another copy of your most recent letter. I believe mine was misplaced.

Sincerely,

Mr. A. V. Sorenson

From the desk of
ERIC P. NEWMAN

AMERICAN NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

Chartered by Congress

EDWARD C. ROCHETTE

Executive Director

P. O. Box 2366, COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO 80901

May 24, 1973

Mr. A. V. Sorensen
Suite 1750, Woodmen Tower
Omaha, Nebraska 68102

Dear Mr. Sorensen:

I am sorry I did not get to see you when you were in Colorado Springs last week, but I do appreciate your calling me.

I do have an idea in regard to the Byron Reed Collection, which may solve Omaha's dilemma.

Would it be possible to consider either a permanent or long-term loan of the Collection to the American Numismatic Association? Since we have the museum exhibit facilities and the appropriate security, we could provide necessary outlet for its display, and I would endeavor to make local arrangements to cover the cost of insuring the collection here at ANA headquarters. At least the storage and exhibit problems could be solved, and it still could be exhibited as the Byron Reed Collection belonging to the City of Omaha, Nebraska.

The City would still get the credit for exhibiting it, and it would still appreciate in value as time goes on.

Just an idea.

Sincerely,

Edward C. Rochette
Executive Director
ECR/ps

To Newman

CITY OF OMAHA
EXECUTIVE OFFICE
EDWARD ZORINSKY, MAYOR
The home of progress . . . and College World Series.

COLLEGE WORLD SERIES
OMAHA

June 5, 1973

Mr. Edward C. Rochette
Executive Director
American Numismatic Association
P. O. Box 2366
Colorado Springs, Colorado 80901

Dear Mr. Rochette:

Since assuming my responsibilities as Mayor of Omaha last month, I have reviewed the matter of the Byron Reed Collection.

At this particular time I feel it would not be in the best interests of the City of Omaha to allow this valuable coin collection to leave our geographical area.

Thank you for the effort and cooperation you have given us on this matter.

Sincerely,

EDWARD ZORINSKY
Mayor

EZ:h
cc:A. V. Sorensen

To EPN

Date 7/17 Time 9:35

WHILE YOU WERE OUT

M N. Sorenson

of [redacted]

Phone [redacted]

Telephoned	✓	Please Return Call	✓
Called To See You		Will Call Again	
Wanted To See You		Returned Your Call	

Message Re: Rud Coin Collection - He would like inventories (8½ x 11 - bound - ½" thick)

[illegible]
OPERATOR

F. 68

To EPN

Date 8/16 Time 2:15

WHILE YOU WERE OUT

M/N. Shafton

of [redacted]

Phone [redacted]

Telephoned	✓	Please Return Call	✓
Called To See You		Will Call Again	
Wanted To See You		Returned Your Call	

Message Omaha, Reed Comm Collection

OPERATOR

F. 68

A. V. SORENSEN

August 27, 1973

Mr. Eric P. Newman
P. O. Box 14020
St. Louis, Missouri 63178

Dear Mr. Newman:

Enclosed you will find clipping from the Omaha World Herald dated August 26, 1973, which gives you an idea of how "politicians" operate, especially with the Reed coin collection.

From an estate that we probated, I am enclosing herein a Columbian half dollar dated 1893. I shall be pleased to have your opinion with reference to the value of this coin; of course if you want it for your collection, we shall make necessary arrangements to do so.

I trust that within the next few days I shall receive the Inventory of the Reed collection which Mr. Sorensen left with you sometime ago, and about which we discussed on the telephone recently.

Most cordially yours,

EDWARD SHAFTON

ES/md
Attach.

SUITE 1750, WOODMEN TOWER
OMAHA, NEBRASKA 68102

A. V. SORENSEN

September 10, 1973

Mr. Eric P. Newman
P. O. Box 14020
St. Louis, Missouri 63178

Dear friend Newman:

Re: Omaha Byron Reed Coin Collection

I am enclosing a news item from this morning's Omaha World Herald relative to the Omaha Byron Reed collection, which I am sure will be of interest to you.

Mr. Edward Shafton advised me that he spoke to you in August, and that you stated you would mail the Inventory of the Byron Reed Collection to me "in a few days" . . .

We have not received the same; and the people over in City Hall are climbing on my back for this copy of the Inventory. Therefore, my good friend, I trust you will be able to mail the Inventory to me at your very earliest opportunity.

Thanks in advance for giving my request your earliest attention. With warmest greetings and best wishes to you and your good wife, I am

Most cordially,

A. V. Sorensen

A. V. SORENSEN

AVS/md

SUITE 1750, WOODMEN TOWER
OMAHA, NEBRASKA 68102

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

September 21, 1973

Mr. A. V. Sorenson
Suite 1750, Woodmen Tower
Omaha, Nebraska 68102

Dear Al:

I have been out of town almost steadily, but finally was able to make a photocopy of the inventory. I am returning the inventory herewith.

I spoke with Mr. Beebee of Omaha, who was a well known coin dealer, and he indicates the thinking is very varied as to what should be done. As to making a new appraisal, I believe that will be very difficult, and unfortunately will be obsolete as soon as it is made, just as the past appraisals have been.

Come to see me in St. Louis, or let's keep our friendship rolling.

Very truly yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN:jah

Encls.

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THROUGH RESEARCH AND EXHIBITION
OF COINS, CURRENCY AND HISTORIC OBJECTS